

JOHN H. THOMAS.

DECEMBER 22, 1831.

Mr. CARR, of Indiana, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of John H. Thomas, of St. Martin, in the State of Louisiana, make the following report:

The petitioner states that he is the owner of 1200 arpents of land, which is described in the report of the United States' commissioners, No. 1114, in class No. 9. He claims under Antoine Patin, in whose name it was entered with the commissioner for confirmation, at Opelousas, in said State. The evidence of Pierre Moreau, who is represented as a credible man, shows that Patin, from the year 1789 to 1803 or 1804, occupied said tract of land as a vacherie, and that his negroes inhabited and cultivated a part of the land in question. He also swears that he recollects to have seen an order of survey for said land, signed by Miro, Governor of Louisiana, in favor of said Patin, but which he has reason to believe was lost. Another witness also swore that he resided on the land for seven or eight years preceding 1813, by Patin's permission, and that about 17 or 18 years previous to his occupancy, the negroes of Patin occupied it as a vacherie, and that from the marks of culture when he took possession, it must have been cultivated. Patin, who is proven to be a man of respectability, swears that about 45 or 50 years since, he applied to the Spanish Government, through the Commandant, for a tract of land at Attakapas, which is described in No. 1114 of the claims upon which reports were made to Congress by the commissioners of the land office at Opelousas, which tract is therein designated as entry No. 78, class 9. He states that the said commandant drew his petition and recommended it to his Government in his capacity as commandant; and that he obtained an order of survey upon it, signed by Miro, then Governor of Louisiana, directing a surveyor to put him in possession of the land so conceded to him, and that he used it as a *vacherie* for many years previous to the change of Government in 1803, by which the country passed to the United States. He states that the concession has been lost; that he has no interest whatever in said land, having long since sold it; and that the petitioner is now the true owner. The register of the land office of the western district of the State of Louisiana, proves that there is no other record of any other grant to said Patin as original proprietor. The evidence is clear that said tract of land has been inhabited and cultivated since the year 1789, with the exception of one or two.

Upon this state of facts, the committee are of opinion that the claimant is entitled to the land claimed by him under the provisions of an act of Congress passed the 2d March, 1805, and report a bill for his relief.

JOHN H. THOMAS

December 21, 1831

Mr. CARR, of Indiana, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, reads the following

REPORT

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of John H. Thomas, of the State of Louisiana, under the following report:

The petition states that he is the owner of 1500 acres of land, which is described in the report of the United States Commissioner, No. 11, in class No. 2. The lands were granted to him in 1795, and he has been in possession of them ever since. He claims that the lands were granted to him by the State of Louisiana, and that he has been in possession of them ever since. He also claims that the lands were granted to him by the State of Louisiana, and that he has been in possession of them ever since. He also claims that the lands were granted to him by the State of Louisiana, and that he has been in possession of them ever since.

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